

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 13055 161151Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03

OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02

SIL-01 STR-05 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 /098 W

-----122822 161310Z /47

R 161035Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6108

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CAMBERRA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EMIN, UNCTAD, IN

SUBJECT: UNCTAD COMMODITIES: IRON ORE

REF: GENEVA 7418

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON S. L. KHURANA OF GOI COMMERCE MINISTRY TO SEEK HIS VIEWS ON IRONORE PREPARATORY MEETING AND POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER UNCTAD WORK ON MANGANESE. KHURANA HANDLES TRADE IN MINERAL ORES AS MINISTRY OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATIONS OF STATE TRADING CORPORATION AND MINERALS AND METALS TRADING CORPORATION.

2. KHURANA HAD ONLY THE VAGUEST OF GOALS FOR THE UNCTAD MEETING. PRINCIPAL POINT HE MADE WAS THAT INDIA MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN IRON ORE QUESTION THAN IN MANGANESE. THUS IRONORE MEETING WOULD BE IMPORTANT; KHURANA MIGHT HIMSELF BE ATTENDING. ASKED WHETHER GOI SOUGHT OR EXPECTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT THROUGH UNCTAD MECHANISM, KHURANA REPLIED THAT INDIAN POSITION WAS STILL TO BE WORKED OUT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF AN AGREED APEF (ASSOCIATION OF IRON ORE EXPORTING COUNTRIES) POSITION. APEF WOULD MEET

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 13055 161151Z

BEFORE UNCTAD SESSION TO CONSIDER THIS.

3. EMBOFF NOTED THAT B. K. SANYAL, APEF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, IN MEETING WITH ECON COUNSELOR LAST YEAR HAD SAID FIRST GOAL OF APEF WAS TO HELP PRODUCERS COME TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE MARKET. EMBOFF ASKED KHURANA HOW HE SAW UNCTAD WORK IN THIS FIELD CORRELATING WITH APEF EFFORTS, AND WHETHER GOI PREFERRED

ONE FORUM OVER THE OTHER FOR THIS LINE OF STUDY. KHURANA WAS UNPREPARED TO ANSWER THE QUESTION. HE TOOK OCCASION, HOWEVER, TO REAFFIRM GOI POSITION THAT APEF HAS NO INTENTION OF SEEKING TO INFLUENCE PRICES THROUGH SUPPLY RESTRICTIONS.

4. KHURANA SIMILARLY WAS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO COMMENT ON QUESTION WHETHER PRODUCER DISAGREEMENTS WOULD BE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE IN THE PATH OF INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATION OF IRON ORE TRADE PROBLEMS.

5. AS TO FUTURE OF MANGANESE DELIBERATIONS IN UNCTAD, KHURANA SAID GOI STILL HAD NOT WORKED OUT A DOMESTIC POLICY ON MANGANESE PRODUCTION. THUS IT WAS UNABLE TO TAKE A POSITION ON DIRECTION WHICH UNCTAD WORK SHOULD TAKE. IN THIS CONTEXT HE EMPHASIZED AGAIN THAT GOI HAD COMPARATIVELY LITTLE INTEREST IN MANGANESE.

6. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR FROM KHURANA'S NEBULOUS APPROACH TO BOTH IRON ORE AND MANGANESE ISSUES THAT, FROM STRICTLY COMMERCIAL TRADING POINT OF VIEW, GOI HAS NO CURRENT INTEREST IN PURSUING UNCTAD-STYLE COMMODITY AGREEMENTS IN THESE TWO FIELDS. IN PARTICULAR WITH REGARD TO IRON ORE, WE SUSPECT THAT SANYAL STILL WIELDS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON THE GOI'S POSITION. ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS LEAVES GOI DELEGATIONS TO THESE MEETINGS LARGELY IN THE HANDS OF THOSE GOI OFFICIALS SEEKING TO FURTHER UNCTAD INTEGRATED PROGRAM AS A WHOLE. THIS WAS EXPLICIT IN COMMENTS BY MINCOMMERCE JOINT SECRETARY SHUKLA BEFORE MANGANESE MEETING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 13055 161151Z

(NEW DELHI 8337) AND WAS IMPLIED IN KHURANA'S STATEMENT THAT, IF HE DID NOT GO TO IRON ORE MEETING, GOI WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY NEW HEAD OF INDIAN UNCTAD/GATT DELEGATION IN GENEVA, PREM KUMAR GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: COMMODITIES, IRON, MEETING AGENDA, PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 16-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: ETRD, EMIN, IN, UNCTAD, (KHURANA, S L)
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